

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MANUFACTURING.GOV ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Manufacturing.gov Act, H.R. 6290, a bill that would refine the Manufacturing.gov website to serve as the main source for key information regarding federal manufacturing programs.

Manufacturing.gov brings together industry, academia and federal partners within a network of advanced manufacturing institutes to increase U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and promote a robust and sustainable national manufacturing R&D infrastructure.

This legislation would specify improvements to the website to make it even more useful and valuable by requiring the inclusion of relevant contact information, opportunities for public input, and webpages focusing on topics related to the website.

Small and medium sized manufacturers are an essential part of the U.S. economy.

In Texas, they make up approximately 13 percent of output and employ just above 7 percent state's workforce.

Manufacturing companies need easy access to critical information within their industrial field to optimize their efficiency and ability to compete. To promote domestic production and provide job opportunities to hard-working Americans, these companies need real-time data on sourcing, markets, supply chains, and fulfillment.

As the U.S. elevates domestic manufacturing to a top economic priority, we must improve and update our systems to better equip these companies, and the public, with the resources they need to succeed.

This bill would establish a new section of the Manufacturing.gov website titled "Manufacturing.gov hub" to include federal manufacturing program information.

To ensure that the Manufacturing.gov hub serves the needs of the people, it is important that the public has the ability to suggest input and feedback.

Allowing the public to give feedback on the website's functionality, as well as its content, allows the site to better serve the needs of U.S. manufacturing while providing a safe, constructive environment to present concerns and solutions.

In order to support the interests of the free market, it is imperative that we make transparent the types of technologies and research that are being developed.

Texas is home to companies that manufacture a wide range of advanced and essential goods, including railcars and railways, clean energy equipment, and everyday household items such as backpacks, blankets, and towels.

Providing these companies with easily accessible sites that are dedicated to their res-

spective industries provides them with the necessary information they need to improve their production.

This bill would provide industrial sectors with accurate, up-to-date information webpages within each hub.

Finally, the Manufacturing.gov Act will utilize machine learning to highlight frequently asked questions and provide corresponding answers for such questions.

By introducing machine learning into the hub, we can refine the website to fit the needs of U.S. manufacturers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill dedicated to bolstering the U.S. manufacturing and production industry by establishing a hub that supplies U.S. small and medium manufacturing companies with recent technological and research developments.

HONORING ANDREW "ANDY"
CHESLEY FOR HIS DEDICATED
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the public service and achievements of Andrew "Andy" Chesley, who recently retired from his position as Executive Director of the San Joaquin Council of Governments, or "SJCOG," after forty one years of service.

Andy graduated from Miami University of Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and geography, after which he earned a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Iowa.

During his fifteen years as Executive Director of the SJCOG, Andy oversaw its rise to prominence among California's metropolitan planning agencies, standing alongside the Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments, the San Diego Association of Governments, and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. Andy was responsible for the management of the SJCOG's transportation planning and other regional planning activities, including implementation of the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan. He also authored and implemented San Joaquin County's "self-help" sales tax for transportation, which was passed by the county's voters, allowing vital improvements to the region's highway and passenger rail transportation system, thereby making this economically challenged region more attractive to future residents and employers.

In addition to his role at the SJCOG, Andy has been chair of the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies of California, is an officer of California's Self-Help Counties Coalition, and is a member of the Institute for Transportation Engineers, the American Planning Asso-

ciation, and the American Public Works Association. He has also been a speaker at state and national conferences of the American Planning Association, the American Society for Public Administrators, the National Association of Regional Councils, and the National Transportation Research Board.

Through changing and challenging times, Andy has provided constant and steady leadership and wise counsel to elected officials charged with managing San Joaquin County's growth and has been a leader among his planning agency peers. He has contributed his knowledge and experience to the California's Central Valley and beyond, and he has made a positive impact on our great state.

Please join me in recognizing Andrew "Andy" Chesley for his distinguished service and in wishing him well on his much-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
FRANK ONGARO

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Frank Ongaro's successful career of advocating for and protecting Minnesota mining, and to celebrate his well-deserved retirement after serving as the Mining Minnesota executive director for 15 years.

Frank is a born and raised Iron Ranger from Hibbing who has spent a majority of his career working in or around mining.

Starting with his grandparents, who immigrated to the United States and worked in mines, Frank and his family truly have embodied what the legacy of Iron Range mining means.

In northern Minnesota, mining is our past, present, and future, and Frank worked tirelessly every day to protect what so many of us hold near and dear to our hearts. Mining isn't just a career; it is a community that he continuously uplifted. That is why when I think of American exceptionalism, I think of Frank Ongaro.

Frank has been a champion for promoting and protecting the Iron Range every day of his career. I thank Frank for his decades of service to our communities and wish him nothing but happiness as he begins this new phase of life.

HONORING SENATOR PATRICIA
TORRES RAY

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished 16-year career of Minnesota Senator Patricia Torres Ray.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Throughout her five terms of dedicated service to our community, Senator Torres Ray has always served her constituents with the kindness, compassion, and representation they deserve. Beyond her exceptional constituent service, she has had a transformative impact on the Minnesota legislature and the lives of Minnesotans alike. She came to the Senate in with keen values-driven policymaking experience that she has utilized to raise up the voices of those who are too often unheard. A shining example of this is her hard-fought victory to enshrine the Minnesota Homeowner's Bill of Rights, which she authored, into Minnesota law in 2013.

Patricia has been—and always will be—a trailblazer. In 2006, she became the first Latina ever elected to the Minnesota Senate. Never shying away from leadership positions, she has been Chair of the Senate Education Committee, Parks and Trails Legacy Committee, New Immigration Policy Commission, People of Color and Indigenous Caucus, and was Majority Whip in her first term. Ever since she pushed through the door of the Minnesota legislature, she has been steadfast in her efforts to keep it open for future generations of leaders—especially other women of color who have been historically excluded from the representational opportunities afforded to others. I am one of those leaders.

Her legacy is a testament to what is possible when someone like Patricia's diverse, bold leadership shatters glass ceilings. During her tenure, has encouraged countless women of color to embrace their power, their stories, and their voices to influence the political process as both advocates and as elected representatives. Her passion for increasing diverse representation has been continually recognized throughout her career; just last month she was a recipient of the CLUES 2022 Latino Trailblazer Leadership Award for her years of outstanding leadership, and her advocacy for access and opportunities for the Latino community. This recognition extends far beyond Minnesota, including as Chair of the Latinas Lead Initiative of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators.

I have been honored to call Senator Torres Ray an inspiration, colleague, and friend. I wish her the very best for her retirement and look forward to seeing her impact unfold for generations to come. The Minnesota legislature is a better place because of her efforts and I know her fellow colleagues will cherish their memories of serving with her, as do I.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Senator Patricia Torres Ray for her hard work as a Senator, and to wish her well for her well-deserved retirement.

**ENSURING PHONE AND INTERNET
ACCESS THROUGH LIFELINE AND
AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY
PROGRAM ACT OF 2022**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4275, the "Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022."

This bill would increase internet and communications access for low-income consumers by promoting enrollment in the Lifeline Program and Affordable Connectivity Program.

In today's technological age, internet and phone communications have become integral to the ever-growing United States economy and to society overall. Having access to the internet is crucial for all Americans, whether that be for educational purposes, business usage, or contacting friends and family.

Given the rapid development in the technological sector, one might be inclined to believe that high-speed internet access has become even more widespread and easily available to all Americans. However, despite critical developments in high-speed data, the U.S. Census Bureau has indicated that 2.8 million households and 7 million individuals in Texas lack broadband access.

Lack of access to broadband internet has impeded not only Texans, but also Americans nationwide from attending classes, filling job forms, and seeing healthcare providers. For low-income families, lack of internet and communication access acts as an economic barrier, impeding opportunities, furthering the socioeconomic gap, and elevating the risk of eventual poverty.

The Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act intends to promote access to broadband internet and phone connectivity by proactively providing low-income Americans the information they need to enroll into either of the two programs.

The Lifeline program helps bring phone service to low-income consumers at a heavily discounted price, allowing them to connect with family, job opportunities, and emergency services. This bill aims to increase enrollment of millions of eligible Americans who suffer from financial barriers.

The Affordable Connective program, like the Lifeline program, helps bring fast, reliable internet access to low-income consumers at discounted prices. After the COVID-19 pandemic, it is obvious how essential online communication has become for modern society to function. Providing access to internet allows for low-income individuals the freedom to explore more opportunities to develop their lives via online education and jobs.

Furthermore, this bill also plans to provide oversight of the enrollment numbers by requiring the Commission to submit annual reports to Congress with enrollment statistics for both programs.

Finally, the Ensuring Phone and Internet Access Through Lifeline and Affordable Connectivity Program Act of 2022 requires that the Comptroller General submit annual reports identifying outreach initiatives that aim to increase awareness of both programs so that potential beneficiaries will take advantage of them.

With this data, Congress can look to refine and expand both programs, creating innovative ways to circumvent lack of internet and phone access.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support this bill that is dedicated to the principles of equity and opportunity for all Americans.

Since internet access and phone connectivity are crucial for success and advancement in today's society, we must ensure that everyone is aware of resources that pro-

vide these services at subsidized prices, so that, ultimately, internet and phone access are available to everyone.

RECOGNIZING DR. PRESTON KING

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a social science educator, prolific writer, political philosopher, and African American Civil Rights Activist, Dr. Preston King.

Dr. King was born in Albany, Georgia on March 3, 1936, to the union of Clennon Washington King, Sr., and Margaret Slater King.

Dr. King obtained his bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1956. He went on to obtain his Master of Science in 1958 from the London School of Economics and his PhD in 1966. Dr. King was subjected to the draft board process and after the board refused to address him as Mr. King, he refused to respond. He was charged with draft evasion and went into exile in the United Kingdom because of the unjust charges that were levied against him.

His exile began his storied career in Academia as he has served at many institutions of higher learning in England and Africa to include Keele University, The University of Ghana, The University of Sheffield, the University of East Africa and as department Chair at the University of Nairobi.

Dr. King moved to Australia in 1976 where he served as Chair of the School of Economics until 1986, when he returned to the United Kingdom and Lancaster University, resuming his position as Chair.

During his extraordinary career, Dr. King has published many books. His first book was published in 1967, *Fear of Power*. Other dynamic publications included *Politics and Experience*, as well as multiple editions of *The Ideology of Order* in 1974 and 1999 and *Tolerance* in 1978 and 1998. Other books include *An African Winter*, *Socialism and the Common Good: New Fabian Essays and Friendship and Politics*. Additionally, Dr. King has authored, narrated, and edited the *Critical Review International Social and Political Philosophy*.

Despite his numerous commitments in academia, Dr. King has found time to share his talents as a visiting professor at multiple institutions of higher learning to include McGill University in Canada, Auckland University in New Zealand, Australian National University in Australia, Macquarie University in Australia and Birkbeck College, a part of the University of London System.

Dr. King's philosophy in academia and activism has always been centered around social issues, especially as they relate to scientific matters. He has extensively studied the structure of societies and how they function and evolve, and he has played an integral role in tying questions of history and the philosophy of history to questions of tolerance and the ways societies may or may not be managed.

Dr. King was pardoned by President Bill Clinton in 2000. He has been active as a scholar-in residence at the leadership center of Morehouse College in Atlanta since 2006.

Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Through much adversity, Dr. Preston King has paid his rent and he has paid it well.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District in honoring Dr. Preston King for his many years of service to academia and humankind.

HONORING 150 YEARS OF INOVA ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Inova Alexandria Hospital's 150th years of providing world-class healthcare to the Northern Virginia Community. In 1872, fearing a typhoid epidemic among crew on board a ship in Old Town Alexandria's harbor, Julia Johns calls upon a group of "charitably disposed" female friends at St. Paul's Church and formed the Alexandria Infirmary Association.

Now, 150 years later, Inova Alexandria Hospital is the oldest continuously operating community hospital in Virginia and provides high-quality medical care and innovative technology. During their rich history, they have continuously enhanced their facility and services to offer the latest treatments and technologies, earning them recognition for many "firsts" in patient care to include: the nursing school in Virginia in 1895, the first movable X-ray table in Northern Virginia in 1937, the first lung chamber in Northern Virginia in 1949, the first on the East Coast to use epidurals in obstetrics in 1953, and the first in the nation to staff the emergency department around the clock—known nationally as the Alexandria Plan in 1961.

Inova's Mission is to provide world-class healthcare—every time, every touch—to each person in every community we have they have a privilege to serve, and as our community's need for health care continues to grow, Alexandria residents can continue to rely on Inova as they build a brand-new hospital campus at the former Landmark Mall location, where we will continue taking care of their community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for Roll Call votes No. 481, No. 482, No. 483, No. 484, and No. 485. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call No. 481 En Bloc Suspensions (H.R. 5721, H.R. 7299, H.R. 7277, H.R. 4275, H.R. 6290, H.R. 5502, H.R. 8416); Yes on Roll Call No. 482 (S. 3369); Yes on Roll Call No. 483 (S. 4359); Yes on Roll Call No. 484 (H.R. 2250); and Yes on Roll Call No. 485 (H.R. 3630).

RECOGNIZING DR. KENNETH KATZMAN

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth Katzman and his more than twenty years of contribution to the Congressional Research Service and his work on behalf of the American people. Dr. Katzman's reputation as a foremost Middle East analyst is widely recognized, and this body has relied on his knowledge and expertise at pivotal points in recent history. Having served CRS since 1991, Dr. Katzman will retire on November 19, 2022.

Dr. Katzman is one of the most prolific authors and contributors for the Congressional Research Service, having written hundreds of memoranda, reports, and other products in the service of Congress and the advancement of the understanding of the Middle East for its members and staff. His work for Congress has covered such critical foreign policy issues as the wars in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq; U.S. sanctions policies; and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), otherwise known as the "Iran Deal". His writings have been read tens of thousands of times by congressional clients and have served as foundational analysis for legislation, hearings, and oversight.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Katzman routinely testified before subcommittees and committees of Congress on issues facing Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. In 1996 and again in 2001, he was assigned to the staff of the then House International Relations Committee where his deep knowledge of Middle East issues proved instrumental.

Dr. Katzman personified the mission of the Congressional Research Service, helping members and staff to understand unfolding events, their historical context, and the potential implications of congressional decisions.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Kenneth Katzman for an exemplary career at the Congressional Research Service. I join with Dr. Katzman's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his tireless commitment to our community and to thank him for his role in keeping this body informed for over two decades. Though we will miss his insight and seeing Dr. Katzman's familiar face in the halls of Congress, we wish him the very best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING MASJID MUHAMMAD

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Masjid Muhammad, the Nation's Mosque, as they celebrate their 85th year of establishment.

Representing one of the oldest established Muslim communities in the country and the first mosque built in the District of Columbia, Masjid Muhammad has long been a beacon

for community service, religious freedom, and human rights.

With their motto of "Our Community, Our Responsibility," Masjid Muhammad has been a central force in their service to the people of DC. They frequently distribute hundreds of pounds of food each month to those in need. They work to build affordable housing and develop programs to address violence, substance abuse, recidivism and countless other social justice issues. They also sponsor several programs including senior citizen support, after school youth activities, vocational training, job placement and more.

Masjid Muhammad has been a pioneer in breaking down barriers for the Muslim community across this country. They established the nation's first Muslim American Veterans Association (MAVA) over 25 years ago with several chapters growing around the nation. They produced the first Islamic Chaplains in the U.S. Military and Department of Justice, the first Muslim Judge for the State of Maryland, the first Muslim Woman to work on a White House Staff, and the first Muslim Boys and Girls Scouts programs in DC.

In addition to their work domestically, Masjid Muhammad has facilitated and participated in numerous conferences and forums on human rights, interfaith peacebuilding, and international religious freedom in over a dozen countries—cementing them as an international voice for peace and justice for all.

Please join me in recognition of Masjid Muhammad's 85 years of service and their contributions to this city, this country, and the world.

HONORING DR. THOMAS ZACHARIA'S RETIREMENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Oak Ridge National Laboratory Director Thomas Zacharia, who announced his intent to retire after 35 years at our nation's largest science and energy laboratory.

Dr. Zacharia joined ORNL in 1987 as a postdoctoral researcher, then accepted a staff position a couple years later and quickly became a key player in spurring innovation in new and creative ways. To name just a few of his accomplishments, he established the Materials Modeling and Simulation Group, served as Deputy Associate Laboratory Director for High Performance Computing, and led the creation of the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility, which recently helped build the world's fastest supercomputer. His impressive career and leadership skills launched him to the top position as director of ORNL in 2017, where he has served faithfully ever since.

He has also played an instrumental role in expanding collaborative efforts between ORNL and the University of Tennessee. In 2007, he oversaw a new partnership between ORNL and the University of Tennessee to establish the National Institute for Computational Sciences, and in 2019 he helped establish the UT-Oak Ridge Innovation Institute to help the great minds at these institutions work together on scientific research and innovation.

Throughout his career, Dr. Zacharia played a crucial role in advancing major scientific research and development. He's made East

Tennessee proud with all he's accomplished, and I wish him the best as he begins this next chapter in life.

HONORING THE WORK OF MR.
TROY HEITHECKER

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary work of Mr. Troy Heithecker of the U.S. Forest Service and to thank him for his service to the great state of Arkansas. For 25 years, Troy has dedicated his life to protecting our beautiful national forests, and we were privileged to have him for the last three years as the Forest Supervisor for the Ouachita National Forest in Hot Springs, AR.

As the only licensed forester in Congress, I can confidently say that Arkansas is blessed with one of the most beautiful, well-managed national forests in the country, and that would not be possible without leadership from individuals like Troy. Throughout the course of his career, Troy has achieved many major accomplishments through his work in national forests across the country. Notably, he worked with the State of Arkansas and other partners towards co-managing both forest and recreation resources on the Ouachita National Forest. He also led efforts to successfully restore the Red Cockaded Woodpecker habitat, established national hiring reform for the USDA Forest Service, and completed two collaborative landscape scale project decisions on the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

Troy was recently selected to serve as the Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System in the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service in Washington, D.C. Arkansas's loss is certainly Washington's gain. I am grateful for Troy's service to the Ouachita National Forest, and I look forward to working with him in the future. I thank Troy for his dedication to leaving our forests better than he found them, so that they may be enjoyed by all Americans for generations.

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS 22q
DELETION SYNDROME AWARE-
NESS MONTH

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, today I recognize DiGeorge Syndrome, or 22q Deletion Syndrome, awareness day and month.

22q Deletion Syndrome is a genetic syndrome caused by the deletion of a small part of chromosome 22 during a pregnancy, resulting in a wide-ranging scope of physical health issues and developmental delays for the child and leading to ongoing challenges for individuals diagnosed with 22q throughout their lives.

I would like to thank my constituent, Ms. Rebecca Osberg, for her impactful work on raising awareness for 22q Deletion Syndrome and for bringing this important issue to my attention. Ms. Osberg and so many families around

the country are leading the charge to shine a light on 22q Deletion Syndrome and related rare diseases. Thank you for your tireless advocacy.

This month is a time to celebrate individuals with 22q and their often-overlooked contributions to our communities.

HONORING STOCKTON FIRE
CAPTAIN VIDAL "MAX" FORTUNA

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. McNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Stockton Fire Captain Vidal "Max" Fortuna, who was tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to a fire in Stockton, California, on January 31st.

A beloved husband and father of two, Captain Fortuna was a 21-year veteran of the Stockton Fire Department. He was an active member of his local church and helped coach youth sports in his free time.

Captain Fortuna was known for his selflessness and dedication to the community he served. He loved his job and went out of his way to work with and mentor young firefighters, and he has been praised by many within the Stockton Fire Department as a model firefighter who inspired others. His colleague, Fire Chief Rick Edwards, fondly remembers him as having an addictive smile and the ability to make anyone laugh when they were feeling down.

Sadly, this is a tragic reminder of the dangers emergency responders face every day. Captain Fortuna's courage will not be forgotten, and I ask that you join me in honoring his life, his service, and his memory.

RECOGNIZING EMMA WHITE

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Emma White, who was my legislative assistant, for her service to Kentucky's Second District.

Emma, a native of London, Kentucky, graduated from Western Kentucky University with degrees in Criminology, Arabic, and Political Science. After graduating from college, Emma moved to D.C. to work as a staff assistant in my Washington office. Emma's extensive knowledge of Kentucky and strong work ethic made her a valuable member of the team. After a brief hiatus as a legislative staffer for another congressional office, Emma rejoined my office as a legislative assistant. Her ability to excel in many subjects in college was evident in how she excelled in handling her diverse legislative portfolio, including education and labor, transportation and infrastructure, small business, and natural resources policy. As my education staffer and as a proud Hilltopper, Emma worked with her alma mater and other education institutions in my district.

I want to thank Emma for her work for Kentucky's Second District through the multiple

roles she held in my office. I wish her the best in the next chapter of her career.

IN MEMORY OF SCOTT TARWATER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Scott Tarwater, a man whose life was marked by excellence and deep influence within his community. Over the years, Tarwater developed a profound reverence for the state of Texas and committed his life to encouraging the growth of North Texas whilst preserving its storied past. During his childhood, Tarwater watched the land around him transform as the Army Corps of Engineers began the development of Lake Grapevine along his family farm property. Tarwater and his wife, Donna, were married on the third step of the family's historic farmhouse, which showcases not only the union of two individuals as one married couple, but the union of reverence for the past and hope for the future which defined Tarwater's life. He watched and participated as a young man alongside his family as they partnered with Peter Paul Stewart, a landman who developed the treasured family farm into Lakeside Village. The Tarwater family farm now also serves as the grounds for Lakeside Tower, which has facilitated travel and business to the Flower Mound community. In March 2020, the Tarwater farmhouse was transported from Flower Mound to Grapevine, to make room for the influential Lakeside Village and to be enshrined forever as a historical landmark and testament to the Tarwater's investment in North Texas. Mr. Tarwater's professional life began with picking tomatoes on the farm and as he furthered his career, he kept his family's joy of continually serving their community close at heart. Following his graduation from Stephen F. Austin State University, Tarwater pursued a series of remarkable business successes in the hospitality industry. He worked as Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing from 1982 to 1985 at American International Rent a Car, Inc., managing global accounts and developing his skills as a salesman of international renown. In the following years he became Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Windsor Hospitality Group, dedicating 10 years of his life to the company between 1990 and 2000. Tarwater spent the largest portion of his career with John Q. Hammons Hotels & Resorts. Hammons Hotels & Resorts was considered at one point to be the largest private owner and hotel management company in the U.S., due to John Hammons' skill as well as his foresight in selecting Scott Tarwater to work as his close associate and business partner. Tarwater spent the final part of his career as Executive Vice President of Development Services with New Stream Capital. In his collective professional life, Tarwater managed the sales and marketing efforts of over 101 upscale hotels over the course of 15 years with both Windsor Hospitality and Hammons Hotels & Resorts. Throughout this great international success, Tarwater also kept Grapevine and Flower Mound in mind. In his work at New Stream Capital and Hammons Hotels,

Tarwater established the first hotel in Flower Mound, the Flower Mound Courtyard River Walk, and Grapevine's Embassy Suites Hotel. Though Tarwater lived a life of travel and adventure, he never lost sight of North Texas and its rich history. Tarwater embodies the best of Texas as a trailblazer and dedicated family man. Acquaintances and coworkers of Tarwater alike have appreciated his sincere friendship and the joy with which he approached life and work. Scott Tarwater has fundamentally propelled Grapevine and Flower Mound into a force on the world stage and preserved its historical integrity for years to come. I am honored to recognize the life of Scott Tarwater and his exemplary service to North Texas. I thank Mr. Tarwater for his excellence and dedication to the community we all hold so dear. I offer my condolences to the Tarwater family and Scott's loved ones and hold his example close to my heart.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PAUL LAMISON

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Paul Lamison, a beloved member of the Tampa Bay community, who passed away on August 4, 2022. Raised in Lakeland, Florida as one of seven siblings, Paul took great pride in his roots. Paul's dedication to journalism and sharing moments in history, big and small, that chronicled and defined our Tampa community is worthy of recognition. His devotion to family also is a great example of the quiet heroes in our lives everyday who deserve praise and honor.

As Chief Photojournalist for Tampa's WFLA News Channel 8, Paul was a familiar voice and face for viewers and News Channel 8 staff alike throughout the course of his nearly 30-year career. Working firmly behind the camera for much of his career, Paul went on to be known as the man with 'the best seat in the house' when he transitioned to his integral role on the morning team and as News Channel 8's 'eye in the sky' in the Eagle 8 news helicopter. Reporting on events from the daily morning commute to celebrations of sports championships to the Gasparilla parade and special episodes in the lives of Tampa Bay area residents, Paul connected the community with professionalism and good cheer. Those who knew Paul loved him, describing him as a passionate, fun-loving person and a light that lifted up everyone around him. Paul's energy and joy was a constant, experienced both on and off screen. His authenticity and commitment have left an immensely positive impact on a generation of journalists, as well as his family and friends. Paul's legacy will continue to live through his siblings along with his wife, Nerissa, and their daughters Emily, Kate, Ava, and Emma.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Paul Lamison for his lifelong dedication to journalism and to sharing stories of all the great people and places that make up our community. We are all eternally grateful for his immense contributions. His legacy

will live on and inspire many others in the Tampa Bay community and beyond for years to come.

HONORING SENIOR CHIEF MICHAEL BELINKIE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the retirement of Senior Chief Michael Belinkie after twenty years of service in the United States Navy. Born and raised in Richmond, Virginia, Senior Chief Belinkie grew up in a musical family with generations of cantors leading religious services at prominent synagogues in Richmond and New York. He further refined his talents as a classical tenor while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in music and economics at the University of Virginia where he also performed with the Virginia Glee Club, Coro Virginia, and in the university's renowned acapella group, the Virginia Gentleman. While in college, Operafestival di Roma invited Senior Chief Belinkie to spend a summer abroad training and performing with other promising young opera singers from around the world.

Acknowledging the challenges of pursuing a successful career in music, Senior Chief Belinkie graduated from George Mason University's School of Law. During his legal studies, he continued to perform locally in northern Virginia, and he ultimately auditioned for an opening for a tenor in the United States Navy Band. He learned he passed the Virginia Bar Exam a few weeks before shipping off to boot camp.

Senior Chief Belinkie enlisted in the United States Navy in 2002 and has had the honor of performing for presidential inaugurations, state dinners, state funerals, and for foreign dignitaries. An avid sports fan, the United States Navy Band also allowed him to sing at two Super Bowls, the World Series, and countless other professional sports events. Known by fans throughout the United States for his incredible vocal range and high falsetto, videos of his renditions of a "Jersey Boys" medley, "White Christmas," and others quickly went viral on social media, garnering more than 100 million views. In 2005, Senior Chief Belinkie sang the world premiere solo of "A Season of Miracles" by Marvin Hamlisch at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with Hamlisch accompanying on piano.

I give my heartfelt congratulations to Michael Belinkie, a lifelong Virginian, on his distinguished career and retirement from the United States Navy Band. I wish him well in his next endeavors and hope he continues to lend his talents to the great state of Virginia.

HONORING STATE REPRESENTATIVE RANDY NIX

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. FERGUSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, and a self-

less public servant, State Representative Randy Nix of LaGrange, Georgia. Representative Nix was born in Holtville, Alabama. He attended local schools and graduated from Troy State University with a degree in business. Following graduation, Randy served as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Army Reserve for five years. He went on to serve seven years in the Alabama Air National Guard, where his final assignment was a role as the weapons system officer flying the RF4-C Phantom aircraft. He was honorably discharged with the rank of captain.

Representative Nix also had a successful career in the financial services industry. He is currently a pastor at the Hillcrest United Methodist Church in LaGrange. Along with his service to the district in the Georgia General Assembly, Randy is very active in the local community. He previously served as president of both the Boys and Girls Club of West Georgia and the West Georgia Technical College Foundation Board, and is currently a Rotarian.

As Representative Nix approaches his retirement, I would like to recognize the sixteen years of unwavering service he has provided to the citizens of District 69. Serving his community is his passion, and his retirement is hard earned and well deserved. May God continue to bless Representative Nix and his wife, Debra, and their children, Julie and Jess, in the years to come.

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP DAY 2022

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in honor of Women's Entrepreneurship Day, which is celebrated around the world each year on November 19th.

Women-owned U.S. firms make up nearly 20 percent of all firms that employ people and this number is growing. There are nearly 13 million women-owned firms in the U.S. alone and they employ close to 10 million people. As a testament to their success, women-owned firms reported revenues of nearly \$1.8 trillion. This is truly astounding and shows you how vital women are to the economy. I applaud these women entrepreneurs and their economically vital businesses.

I also applaud the Women's Entrepreneurship Day movement, which is spearheaded by Wendy Diamond. Since it launched in 2013, the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization has annually funded one thousand impoverished women with microloans to start their entrepreneurial journey, hosted a nationwide entrepreneurship training program for 60,000 female college students and early-stage entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia, supported Restart Academy, which provides educational services for 13–21-year-old students in transitional settings, provided financial literacy education to one thousand rural women in the Philippines, and partnered with a Uruguayan university to offer scholarships to young women.

Women's Entrepreneurship Day is now celebrated in 144 countries and 65 universities and colleges internationally, with numerous global ambassadors. The Women's Entrepreneurship Day mission is to empower the nearly four billion women worldwide to be catalysts

of change and uplift the over 388 million women and girls living in poverty around the world.

As in past years, the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization Pioneer Awards recognize and honor distinguished women who are leaders and innovators across multiple fields with inspiring accomplishments. This year's honorees include:

Janice Bryant Howroyd—Founder and CEO of The ActOne Group of Companies—Business Pioneer

Lele Pons—Celebrity Influencer, NFT and Crypto Enthusiast, 100 million Followers—Influencer Pioneer

Beverly Johnson—Iconic Supermodel—Model Pioneer

Wendy Fisher—Artist, President of the Board of Trustees of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation—Art Pioneer

Neeti Mehta—Co-Founder and Chief Impact Officer of Automation Anywhere—Technology Pioneer

Amanda Feilding—Countess of Wemyss and March, Founder of the Beckley Foundation, and Psychedelics Pioneer—Science Pioneer

Mitzi Perdue—Founder of CERES Farms, Philanthropist, and Anti-Human Trafficking Advocate—Philanthropy Pioneer

Coco Rocha—Founder of the Coco Rocha Model Camp and Supermodel—Fashion Pioneer

Marta Belcher—Chair of the Filecoin Foundation and General Council and Head of Policy for Protocol Labs—Web3 Pioneer

Madam Speaker, I urge the entire House to recognize these role models, and to celebrate Women's Entrepreneurship Day this year.

RECOGNIZING THE NOTRE DAME ACADEMY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Notre Dame Academy Boys Cross Country Team for winning their first Division 2 State Championship Title.

On Saturday, October 29th, the Notre Dame Boys Cross Country Team traveled to the Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids to compete in the 2022 Wisconsin State Cross Country Championships. After an incredible season by both the Boys and Girls teams the Boys successfully secured the state title.

This state title is a remarkable achievement as the team has secured runner-up finishes in three of the last four seasons. Following a season full of hard work and determination, the Boys Cross Country Team has achieved greatness and will be remembered by the Green Bay community for years to come. Led by Isaac Nowak, who took fourth place and Joseph Stumpf, who took twentieth overall in the race this team was able to surpass the previous runner-up finishes. With the help of great runners Braeden Tilot, Joseph Hunt, Jackson Fogarty, Bryce Hawley, and Federrico Auricchio they were able to accomplish their goal of a State Title. I commend them all for an outstanding performance at the state championships.

Achieving the title of State Champion is a testament to the hard work and dedication that the coaches and athletes display every day of the season. Finishing at State with 81 points to secure the win, the Notre Dame Boys Cross Country team has shown consistent improvement and I wish them nothing but the best in seasons to come.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to Head Coach Gard and the entire Notre Dame Cross Country team for this outstanding accomplishment. It is my honor to recognize these young men and I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding their unwavering commitment and dedication to their sport.

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY REPORT ON MYANMAR

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the International Parliamentary Inquiry into the global response to the crisis in Myanmar. Therefore, I include in the RECORD the executive summary of our final report.

Since the Myanmar military staged a coup on 1 February 2021, the situation in the country has steadily deteriorated. The military junta, led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, has waged a brutal war of attrition against its own people, committing countless atrocities and ruining the country's economy. Military forces have killed at least 2,371 people and displaced hundreds of thousands, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons in the country to over 1.3 million. The junta has also jailed more than 15,000 political prisoners and made routine use of torture against those arrested, all while launching a far-reaching crackdown on freedoms of expression and association, including an intense repression of independent media and civil society.

Nevertheless, the people of Myanmar have resisted. The massive peaceful demonstrations in the coup's immediate aftermath, as well as the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) that saw hundreds of thousands join a general strike, including throughout the bureaucracy, demonstrated the population's overwhelming rejection of a return to military rule. The coup has also inspired an unprecedented level of unity among those opposed to the military, including across ethnic lines.

In April 2021, the National Unity Government (NUG) of Myanmar was formed, bringing together parliamentarians ousted in the coup, ethnic minority representatives and civil society actors. The NUG rightly claims a mandate as the legitimate representative of the Myanmar people. It enjoys widespread popular legitimacy and support, especially in the country's heartland, and represents the most inclusive government in Myanmar's history. The NUG has expressed a commitment to establishing a new constitution and a genuine federal democracy in Myanmar, which would represent a major step toward fulfilling the aspirations for autonomy of the country's ethnic minorities.

The junta's attempts to subdue the resistance with extreme violence failed dramatically, and only served to exacerbate existing tensions and drive some anti-junta activists to

turn to armed struggle to defend themselves. Anti-military militia groups known as people's defense forces (PDFs)—some under the command of the NUG—have been established across the country, including in areas that had been relatively peaceful before. The coup has also triggered a new wave of violence between the military and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), which have been fighting for autonomy for decades in the country's borderlands. Some of these EAOs, such as the armed wings of the Karen National Union (KNU) and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), have allied themselves with the NUG. Not all EAOs have formally joined the anti-military struggle, as Myanmar's political landscape remains extremely complex and fractured.

The escalating violence has precipitated the near collapse of the economy and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Myanmar's GDP has dropped 13 percent since 2019, and 40 percent of the country's population now lives below the national poverty line. Despite the increased needs, humanitarian actors have struggled to reach vulnerable and remote populations, as the military has placed severe limitations on humanitarian access.

The international community has proven largely unable to respond effectively to the crisis. The junta's international allies—most prominently Russia and China—have emerged as steadfast and uncritical supporters, supplying both weapons and legitimacy to an otherwise isolated regime. Foreign governments that profess support for democracy have not backed up their rhetoric with the same force of action, however. While a number of countries have imposed sanctions targeting junta leaders and their personal assets, these efforts remain uncoordinated and have failed to successfully target key revenue-generating entities, such as the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE). The United Nations has been particularly hampered by internal divisions and has proved to be unable to project influence. The NUG has attracted supporters globally and continues to occupy Myanmar's seat at the UN, but most governments have been hesitant to formally recognize it, despite calls from parliaments and advocates to do so.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), of which Myanmar is a member, has been similarly plagued by internal divisions and unable to respond effectively. The bloc's "Five-Point Consensus," signed in April 2021 and aimed at addressing the crisis, has utterly failed, hampered by a lack of will on the part of all ASEAN member-states to enforce it, and a military leadership in Myanmar that did not show any intention of implementing it from the beginning. While some member-states, such as Malaysia, have called for a new approach, including direct engagement with the NUG and other pro-democracy forces, others, including Thailand or Cambodia, have persisted as junta enablers.

As Myanmar slides into civil war, the possibility for a negotiated solution to the conflict has all but closed completely. The dialogue prescribed in ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus is impossible under the current conditions. Responsibility lies with the junta, which has shown no willingness to engage with those who oppose it and has instead relied exclusively on brute force in its attempt to stamp out any opposition. The execution of four political prisoners in July 2022, the country's first

judicial execution since 1988, highlighted both the military's brutality and its complete disinterest in negotiations. The coup brought the previous power-sharing arrangement with the civilian leadership to an unceremonious end. Now the vast majority of the Myanmar people have expressed a clear desire not to return to the status quo ante.

Nineteen months after the coup, the military junta has been unable to consolidate its power. Wide swaths of Myanmar's territory are contested between the military and forces associated with the NUG or EAOs, and it can be stated that the coup has failed. In areas along the Thai border, EAOs like the KNU and the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) are working together, providing basic services to the population, and showing what a future Myanmar, in which different groups cooperate rather than fight amongst themselves, could look like if the country is able to shake off the tyranny of the military.

As Myanmar's future hangs in the balance, external pressure on the military and support for the resistance may well be the deciding factor in the course of the conflict. The international community can, and should, do more to help the Myanmar people to send the military to the barracks and establish a federal democracy. It should start with substantially increasing its efforts to address the worsening humanitarian crisis, intensifying its pressure on the illegal junta through coordinated sanctions and arms embargoes, and recognizing the NUG as the legitimate authority in Myanmar. The NUG, as well as aligned EAOs, should be provided with funding and capacity building programs on governance and federalism. But action should be taken urgently. As Khin Ohmar, Myanmar activist and Chair of Progressive Voice said during one of the IPI oral hearings, "time is not our side".

RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT SANFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and salute State Representative Scott Sanford, a steadfast leader who has faithfully served the constituents of Texas' House District 70 over the past decade.

A proud Texas native, Mr. Sanford earned his Bachelor and Masters degrees from Baylor University prior to beginning his career as a certified public accountant. In 1997, Scott heeded a new calling by joining the ministry at Cottonwood Creek Church in Allen, Texas, where he currently serves as the Executive Pastor.

In 2012, Sanford undertook a new mission of service after being elected to Texas House District 70, which encompasses the rapidly growing Collin County cities of McKinney, Melissa, Celina, Prosper, Anna, Princeton, and Weston.

During his time in the Texas Legislature, he has proudly held the positions of Texas GOP Caucus Policy Chair during the 86th and 87th Legislative Sessions and also served as the Chairman of the Texas Prayer Caucus. Notable past committee assignments include the

House Public Education Committee, Health & Human Services Committee, Urban Affairs Committee, Land & Resource Management Committee, Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Committee, and the Corrections Committee. Rep. Sanford also currently serves on the prestigious Ways & Means Committee, Insurance Committee, and the House Administration Committee.

His proudest legislative achievements include the Pastor Protection Act, the Bonton Farms Act, the Don't Pass the Trash Bill, and the Freedom to Worship Act. For his many efforts, he was recognized by Texas Values as a "Faith & Family Champion," by Texas CASA with the "Big Voices for Little Texans" Award, and by the Texas Conservative Coalition as a "Courageous Conservative."

Representative Sanford's deep commitment to his community and constituents is evidenced by his work as a member of the board for Smiles Charity and Collin County Meals on Wheels, as a member of the Rotary Club of McKinney and the McKinney Chamber of Commerce, and as a mentor to students in McKinney Independent School District through the REACH program.

Representative Sanford has truly fostered a tremendous legacy of servant leadership. Now as he prepares to begin a new season of life alongside his wife, Shelly, it is with gratitude that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his many contributions throughout his career in public service while wishing him and his family all the best in this next chapter.

RECOGNIZING COLIN CARR

HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with mixed emotions as I recognize the incredible contributions made to my office, and this body, by a dedicated member of my staff. Mr. Colin Carr was one of the first to join my office in 2015 when I was a newly elected member of Congress. At that time, Colin came onboard as my first Legislative Correspondent, where he excelled. I quickly recognized not only his talents, critical thinking, and grasp of the issues, but also his keen interest and in-depth knowledge of legislative policy, especially in economics and the financial services realm. As a result, he was soon promoted to Legislative Assistant and then to Legislative Director.

Colin's deep interest in the financial services sector proved to be crucial in 2017 when I joined the House Financial Services Committee. As my legislative liaison on the Financial Services Committee, Colin not only helped me to navigate the complexity of issues, but he also inspired new legislative initiatives. Colin led the effort to pass several bills in the financial services sector, as well as those of specific importance to the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District. Two of the bills Colin helped champion were eventually signed into law by the President, the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Boundary Act and the Building Up Independent Lives and Dreams (BUILD) Act. Colin's natural aptitude and thorough understanding of the vital aspects of our

financial systems are surpassed only by his vigilant commitment to his faith, his family, and our country. He is a wonderful role model for young Americans willing to work hard to be the best at what they do.

Colin is leaving the House of Representatives to take a job in the private sector. As Colin steps into the next part of his journey, he will be greatly missed as a leader on our team but will always remain a member of our office family. We will carry a sense of pride in knowing that he will undoubtedly build on the foundation established over his years of service in the House of Representatives. I am blessed to have had such a dedicated and motivated member of my team; and, while I am happy for the success that awaits him in the private sector, he will be greatly missed by me, my office, and many others in the House of Representatives.

I thank Colin for his service, and God speed.

STRENGTHENING VA CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2022

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7299, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to the Department of Defense, cyber criminals target victims in order to weaken U.S. supply chains, threaten national security, and endanger the American way of life.

Although cyberattacks can potentially harm all Americans, attacks against veterans are especially problematic because of the vast population of veterans and the amount of data that is maintained about their service and benefits.

In the United States, there are an estimated 18.5 million veterans.

Currently, there are 1.2 million active-duty military members and 778,000 reserve forces. More than half of active-duty personnel have family member dependents.

Because there are so many veterans—and future veterans—the data systems that manage their service records, salaries, health conditions, and benefits provided to them and their families must be maintained securely and insulated from risk of being exposed, corrupted, deleted, or held for ransom.

Just as veterans have served America, protecting our safety and freedoms, it is vital that we protect veterans when they complete their service, start a new chapter of their life, and depend on our government to protect their personal information and privacy.

The Department of Veterans Affairs stores important material such as social security numbers, health records, financial information, and more. It is the Department's responsibility to protect and preserve veterans' data for future use and needs that the veterans may have.

In 1973, a firestorm at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri

destroyed the records of veterans that served from 1912 to 1964. Almost 18 million records went up in flames. Up to 80 percent of veterans who discharged during this time had their records destroyed.

We learned from that conflagration, and since 1973, we have become increasingly reliant on technology, although that, too, creates exposure to potential vulnerabilities.

If cybersecurity is not protected appropriately, then millions of records could be at risk just like they were in 1973.

Strengthening information systems at Veterans Affairs will protect against cybersecurity threats, ransomware, insider threats, threats from foreign actors, phishing, and any other attacks that seek to cause harm.

Congress must require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems at the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that this fragile information is protected.

This bill should be extremely important to all of us because it is personal. Many of our colleagues in Congress are veterans. Many of our neighbors are veterans or have family and friends who are veterans. They are our constituents, our community leaders, and often, our heroes and heroines.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical bill that will safeguard the information of millions of veterans and their families.

HONORING WORLD TURKISH COFFEE DAY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of World Turkish Coffee Day, recognizing a living world heritage of humanity listed on UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Admitted to UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list on December 5, 2013, Turkish coffee culture has a universal value that must be conserved and passed onto future generations. Symbolizing hospitality and peace for centuries, Turkish coffee is the world's first coffee brewing method. The coffee culture was introduced to Europe by Turks in the 17th century and later was spread to the Americas.

Led by the Turkish Coffee Lady Foundation (TCLF), Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA), and American Turkish Association of Washington DC (ATA-DC), Turkish Americans throughout Virginia and across the country will recognize December 5th as the World Turkish Coffee Culture Day on December 5, 2022. From Alexandria to New York City, from Michigan to Cleveland, from Fort Lauderdale to Los Angeles, Turkish Americans contributing culturally, socially, and economically to their local communities will foster friendships between societies through cultural and social activities.

Please join me in thanking Turkish Americans for their community service and gastro diplomacy mission of bridging cultures through civic engagement in the U.S.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MS.
CAROL SARGANIS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, today, I honor the life and memory of Ms. Carol Sarganis, a teacher, a role model for people with Muscular Dystrophy, and a champion for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace.

When she was diagnosed with Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy as a young child, Carol's doctors told her parents that she would never accomplish anything in her life. However, her parents disagreed, and they instead encouraged her—and fought for her right—to receive a solid public-school education.

Carol was a successful student, and she defied the expectations of her counselors who thought she wouldn't be able to handle a rigorous academic environment. After graduating from East Providence High School, Carol attended Salve Regina University in Newport, RI to pursue her dreams of becoming a teacher.

By the time she earned her Bachelor's Degree in elementary education, the progressive nature of the disease had made her almost entirely dependent on a manual wheelchair. This came long before the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed into law, so she had to rely on others, such as her brother or nursing students, to carry her up multiple flights of stairs just to attend class.

In 1968, she graduated from Salve Regina and joined the Newport Public School System as a remedial reading specialist, where she taught until her retirement in 1996. Always seeking to redefine any limit, she went on to earn a Master's Degree from the University of Rhode Island while teaching fulltime. During her tenure as a teacher, she was recognized as Teacher of the Year. Eventually, Carol learned to drive using an adaptive vehicle to accommodate her disabilities. After retiring from teaching, Carol worked as an employment specialist and job coach with Project: Return to Work, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with the mission of providing employment services and placement opportunities for Americans with disabilities, including veterans.

Carol was a role model, not just through her personal experience with overcoming barriers in the workplace, but through her relentlessly positive attitude. She believed life was a gift and refused to be defined by either her physical limitations or the biased perceptions of others. Instead of growing bitter about increasing limitations presented by the disease, she chose instead to be grateful for all of the blessings that she had. Near the end of her life, when she was almost entirely paralyzed, she was grateful for the staff of the nursing home who brought her outside to feel the sun on her face and helped her by writing cards she dictated for friends and loved ones. Always one to share her blessings, Carol would decorate the rooms of other residents with cards she had received to brighten up their living arrangements.

On October 25, 2022, Carol passed away at Rhode Island Hospital. Carol left behind her brother George Sarganis and his wife Claire McWilliams, her beloved niece Zoe Sarganis of Central Falls, and her beloved cousins

Elaine and Dick Bianco of Barrington, Rhode Island.

HONORING THE CAREER OF TODD
HAUGEN

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Todd Haugen's retirement after his 42-year long broadcasting career in Bemidji, Minnesota. Todd's last show will be November 18, 2022.

Todd has been a member of the Bemidji community since he attended Bemidji State University, where he later went on to be honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

For nearly the entirety of his 42-year career in Bemidji, Todd was on air with KBUN/KB101.

As the long-time host of the popular daily public affairs show Chatabout, Todd helped his station, KB 101, earn a record number of six National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Awards, a Crystal Heritage Award, and two NABEF Service to America Awards. He also a two-time National Association of Broadcasters Marconi award finalist for Small Market Personality of the Year.

During his time as a broadcaster, Todd did so much more than hosting shows and entertaining and informing his community. He hosted hundreds of community events, fundraisers, and participated as a host for Hubbard Bemidji's annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse that raised over \$1 million since it began in 1988.

After a successful career in broadcasting and serving his community, I wish Todd nothing but happiness in this new stage of life. I Hope he enjoys retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD TRAF-
FIC VICTIMS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

Every third Sunday in November, the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is a chance to remember the millions of lives lost or injured due to road crashes. On this day we also pay tribute to emergency responders and medical professionals who deal with the trauma of road death and injury daily.

According to the Association for Safe International Road Travel an estimated 1.35 million people around the world die in road crashes each year. This is a public health crisis that continues day in and day out in all countries of the world. Affecting primarily our most vulnerable communities and our young. Therefore, during the new Decade of Action 2021–2030 the World Day will have the important role of helping to achieve the 50 percent road casualty reduction target.

Madam Speaker, please join me today as we remember the victims of road traffic collisions and their families. Ultimately, we should

do everything in our power to protect the lives of all road users, and I hope to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do that.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR
CHARLES CRAWFORD ON 60
YEARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a great professor, historian and my friend, Charles W. Crawford, who was recently recognized by the University of Memphis for teaching 60 years in its History Department. Professor Crawford, whose Tennessee Land, History and Government (1984) and its 1990 update, Dynamic Tennessee, served as high school textbooks for most students across our state for decades, also has the distinction of having taught Tennessee history to future Tennessee Congressman, Senator and Vice President Al Gore in the summer before Gore's senior year at Harvard. Professor Crawford's first of 20 published books was an illustrated history of his adopted city, Yesterday's Memphis (1976) and he wrote the history of the local National Bank of Commerce on its 120th anniversary. Professor Crawford was a favorite interview for many journalists and authors and he served as a consultant on many media projects, including the 1984 documentary film "The Old Forest" and commentary on the local public television station, WQED. A native of rural north-central Arkansas, where he still has a home, Professor Crawford, 91, received a bachelor's degree from then-Harding College (now University) in Searcy, Arkansas, a master's from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi, all in history. He started teaching as a graduate assistant at Ole Miss and began as an assistant professor at then-Memphis State (now the University of Memphis) in 1962. In 1967, the university's president, Cecil C. Humphreys, asked him to start its Oral History Project, and he has subsequently conducted or overseen more than 2000 interviews, including with military veterans, experts on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Mississippi River flood of 1937, and a lot of politicians, and served as president of the national Oral History Association. As a professor, he has directed students in completing 38 doctoral dissertations and 68 students in the completion of M.A. theses. Among those who have benefitted from his work are local groups such as the Memphis Arts Council, Leadership Memphis, the Shelby County Historical Commission, the West Tennessee Historical Society, the Tennessee Historical Society, and the Tennessee Humanities Council. At the national level, besides the Oral History Association, he has been involved with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Organization of American Historians. He has put in many hours as an editor or reader for university presses in Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, and Georgia. He also served as a consultant to the American Red Cross when it undertook an oral history of its

beginnings. I have known Professor Crawford since the beginning of my political career and have been the beneficiary of his wisdom and friendship. I congratulate him on his long, distinguished and continuing career as an historian and wish him all the best when and if he ever retires.

HONORING K. DONALD
NICEWONDER

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor K. Donald Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia, who passed away on November 12, 2022, at the age of 84. Mr. Nicewonder was a businessman whose success in the coal business provided the resources for his philanthropy.

Mr. Nicewonder was born to John and Lena Nicewonder on November 13, 1937. He attended Emory and Henry College for two weeks before going to work at a surface coal mine owned by his older brother, J.D. After two years at his brother's companies, he began two of his own companies in Kentucky. He later sold these to McCulloch Oil Corporation and in 1974 purchased land in Buchanan County, Virginia, and McDowell County, West Virginia, with a small group of partners. In the 1980s, he sought new coal reserves and started four new surface mining companies in West Virginia with his sons, operations that produced approximately four million tons of marketable coal per year at their peak. In 2005, Mr. Nicewonder and his family sold their mining operations to Alpha Natural Resources.

His interest in coal extended to reclaiming old mining properties and reusing them for different purposes, including an airport, a portion of the King Coal Highway, and the Twisted Gun Golf Course of Wharcliffe, West Virginia. He told the Golf Channel, "Being in West Virginia in mining for ten years, I thought it would be a great gesture to give the people in southern West Virginia a nice place to come play golf and let people see what can be done with some of this abandoned mine land."

Coal constituted just one part of Mr. Nicewonder's business legacy. The Nicewonder Group he launched with family and other partners controls multiple businesses. The Virginian is a golf course built near his home in 1992, later accompanied by a vineyard and a resort. The group is involved in shopping centers, office buildings, and condos in Virginia and Florida and owns clay deposits in Virginia and Vermont.

Mr. Nicewonder's business success empowered him to give generously to causes in his home region. He supported educational institutions such as Virginia Tech, the University of Virginia's College at Wise, Sullins Academy, and the Morrison School. Mr. Nicewonder and his brother J.D. have also supported health care providers in Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee, contributing to the well-being of the region's people.

Mr. Nicewonder is survived by his wife of 65 years, Etta Nicewonder; two sons, Kenny Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia, and Kevin Nicewonder and his wife, Kim Grace Nicewonder of Abingdon, Virginia; one daughter,

Kim Nicewonder Johnson of Bristol, Virginia; seven grandchildren, Reid Nicewonder of Los Angeles; California, Paulena Johnson of the Netherlands, Ross Nicewonder of Denver, Colorado, Nick Nicewonder of Asheville, North Carolina, Carly Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia, Lexi Johnson of Alexandria, Virginia, and Steven Johnson of Bristol, Virginia; and brother, J.D. Nicewonder and his wife Loraine Nicewonder of Bristol, Virginia. I offer them my condolences on the loss of a great Bristol businessman and philanthropist.

VA INFRASTRUCTURE POWERS EXCEPTIONAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5721 the "VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act of 2021" or "VIPER Act."

As a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, I care deeply about our veterans.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 in the 18th Congressional District of Texas that I proudly represent.

In Congress, I have sponsored many legislative proposals and co-sponsored well over 50 pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our veterans and their families.

Of all veterans, 50 percent use at least one VA benefit or service. Majority of those using health care benefits.

H.R. 5721 addresses the misguided legal reinterpretation that eliminated a 75-year long allowance of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to accept grant money through private universities.

Over the past 75 years, the VA has developed the most sophisticated and powerful research enterprises in the United States.

It is extremely important that we pass this bill because it would give critical resources and tools to better serve our nation's veterans by further improving its groundbreaking research program.

The VIPER Act would:

Ensure program continuity by authorizing the VA's Office of Research and Development; Eliminate burdensome paperwork requirements for VA scientists and administrators;

Allow VA to recruit and retain data scientists and researchers on loan from other federal agencies more efficiently;

Create opportunities for researcher at smaller universities to expand the STEM pipeline serving veterans;

Grant VA transactional authority in line with 11 other federal agencies; and

Mandate a Government Accountability Office study on the retention of VA clinician-scientists and the productivity of their research.

H.R. 5721 would benefit our veterans and the global community as VA-funded research has led to medical breakthroughs such as the first pacemaker, the first successful liver transplant, effective treatments for PTSD, and prosthetics that enhance mobility for amputees.

VA research is key to the world-class care it delivers to its nine million patients.

I hope you will join me in passing this legislation, to ensure VA researchers can be on the forefront of health research and novel discoveries.

Without H.R. 5721, thousands of veterans and civilians will be impacted.

The great state of Texas is home to over 1.4 million veterans, the most out of any state.

The debt we owe our veterans is immeasurable. Their sacrifices and those of their families are freedom's foundation.

Without the brave efforts of all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and Coast Guardsmen and their families, our country would not live so freely.